

WENEFRETT WATSON'S
CENTENARIAN BIRTHDAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Wenefrett Watson on her 100th birthday, and honor her decades of service in our East Bay community.

Mrs. Watson was born in Marshall, Texas on October 29, 1921, to Dr. Oliver Wendell Phillips and Mayme Cecelia Adam Phillips. She completed two bachelor's degrees during her undergraduate studies, one in English Literature from Bishop College and one in Library Sciences from the University of Southern California. She worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Dr. James A. Watson. The Watsons relocated to Oakland, California in the 1950s, where Mrs. Watson became active in the Oakland public schools.

Mrs. Watson has been an important civic leader in our Oakland community. She was involved in many local organizations, including the Oakland Museum Commission, the Oakland Symphony Board, and the Oakland Anti-Poverty Board. Mrs. Watson's civil involvement is also notable, including her work with the PTA in the Oakland schools, and later with membership of the Oakland Bay Area Links, a volunteer service organization of women committed to ensuring the economic and cultural livelihoods of African Americans. She was also passionate about civil rights, and became active with the NAACP, the Urban League, and eventually ran for City Council.

Mrs. Watson is a trailblazer in the Oakland business community, as a business owner and entrepreneur. She created and managed *WenTravel* and *Cruise travel agency* in the 1980s, holding contracts with the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, and the State of California. Mrs. Watson's work was exceptionally impactful as she offered young African American business owners' opportunities to follow in her footsteps. When she retired, she sought inspired and passionate young African American entrepreneurs who would carry on her business and her work in our Oakland community. Mrs. Watson remained active after retirement, inspiring other community leaders through her work in helping to start the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame. In 1997, she was honored by the Black Business Listings for her outreach and leadership.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I commend Mrs. Wenefrett Watson for her lifelong work as a leader, activist, and entrepreneur, and warmly wish her a happy 100th birthday.

EASTERSEALS WORK CENTER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness." These words are not to be taken lightly, and they are certainly not exclusive to one class. That is the beauty of our nation—that all individuals

are afforded the opportunity to better themselves and their place in society. Easterseals is an organization that adheres to that principle: independence. Easterseals, for generations, has given the most vulnerable and overlooked community a chance at independence through employment. The Easterseals organization has been an advocate for those with disabilities. It offers them the opportunity for success in areas of employment and in education. In a similar vein, Easterseals continues helping those individuals and families dealing with disabilities, helping them secure the same independence and freedom to pursue "Life, liberty and Happiness." God Bless, Easterseals, and all those who participate in the program, and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITAL CORPSMAN THIRD CLASS RAYMOND RICHARDSON, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the timehonored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Raymond Richardson of McKinney, Texas.

In 1965, at the age of 17, Raymond Richardson joined the United States Navy where he was assigned to a Medivac Unit for the 1st Marine Air Wing in DaNang.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Raymond Richardson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal for his service.

In his civilian life, Mr. Richardson has been staunch advocate for our veterans within our community. During his tenure as McKinney VFW Commander, Raymond led several unique service initiatives benefiting both veterans and the citizens of Collin County. Impressively, he completed over 130 community service projects including raising relief for veterans healthcare and arranging hotel accommodations for stranded veterans. One special initiative includes his annual organization of a Christmas Party for the children of the Samaritan Inn where families are invited to the VFW to share a meal with Santa and Mrs. Clause prior to receiving gifts. Mr. Richardson also spearheads efforts to prepare and distribute care packages for military members overseas and local veterans in need in conjunction with the students of McKinney Christian Academy.

As a longtime and valued member of the VFW National Legislative Committee, Mr.

Richardson has advocated on a variety of veterans issues. He has served in a multitude of roles within the VFW earning numerous accolades including the Recruiter Award, Early Bird Award, the Kansas City Spree Award, and Past State Commanders Leadership Award.

Richardson is the proud father to three daughters and grandfather to eight. We commend him for his tireless efforts on behalf of our veterans and the citizens of Collin County.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Corpsman Richardson for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

KATHY PLOMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathy Plomer, an Adams 12 Board of Education member on years of service to the Adams 12 School District.

Kathy has been a Board Member of Adams 12 since 2013, and during her tenure, she served as Board President. She has a 16-year history of volunteerism and service to the in Adams 12 community. She was a classroom volunteer, PTO President, School Improvement Team member at four schools, District School Improvement Team leader, and a founding member of the Adams 12 Community Action Network (Adams 12 CAN).

Kathy's dedication to the Adams 12 community follows a history of service to her community. She has a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan and has worked in the field of public health for more than 25 years. She worked for Tri-County Health Department and runs her own consulting company. In addition to her service to the community, she is a loving wife and devoted parent to three children.

I wish Kathy Plomer all the best in her future endeavors, and I extend my gratitude for her service to the Adams 12 community and the great State of Colorado.

MARK FAVERZANI—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

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Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Mark Faverzani his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Mark is a recent graduate of St Augustine Prep, and is now attending Villanova University. This past year, Mark earned the Congressional Gold Award for his distinguished achievements and contributions to the South Jersey community. Mark's Eagle project consisted of creating an outdoor rehearsal space for the Ocean City Theatre Company during the Covid-19 Pandemic, allowing them to have rehearsals and activities outdoors.

This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have